

REMARKS

1. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-16 and 18-20 are not believed anticipated by Davies '383 because the device disclosed therein employs two different tools. First, one plug member 30 includes interior threads 32 for securing the plug to a valve stem. Second, the other plug member 30 includes a pin 34 that is installed in member 30 via press-fit. In addition, pin 34 has no threads of any kind.

The present device is a "two-part member 25 with a threaded portion 26 for mounting in recess 23 and a non-threaded portion 27 having a machined slot 28 therein forming a pair of tines 40 and a gun-drilled recess 29 at the end 30 thereof. (Specification, page 4).

Importantly, the threaded portion 26 fits into a valve stem because of the external threads of portion 26. The threads of Davies '383 are interior and would fit over and around a valve stem. The present device is accordingly very much smaller than prior art tools which greatly facilitates the use of the device on narrow rim wheels such as those found on motorcycles and the like where the prior art devices are too big to pass through the stem opening in the rim.

Claim 1 (currently amended) recites that said threaded rear portion being "externally threaded for threading" into interior threads of such valve thus clearly distinguishing over Davies '383.

Claims 7 and 14, as currently amended, recite "an externally" threaded rear portion thus also clearly distinguishing over the Davies '383 device.

2. Claims 5 and 6 are not believed to be obvious in light of Davies '383 and Lea '335. Lea '335 uses a flexible shaft for rotation of the valve core removal fork tool, which is rigidly attached to the shaft. The shaft of the present invention is used only for pulling the tool attached to a valve stem.

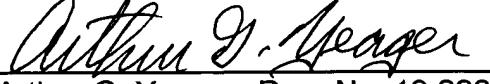
Finally, the "shaft" of Davies '383 is not an elongate shaft at all but rather is a common bead chain. The chain of Davis '383 is not interchangeable with the rigidly mounted shaft of Lea '335, which has a different purpose, and accordingly, applicant believes the combination of references is not appropriate.

3. With respect to Claim 17, Claim 17 is ultimately dependent upon Claim 14 (currently amended) and accordingly, applicant believes that the claim should be allowable as presented.

Accordingly, applicant believes that Claims 1 (currently amended)-6, 7 (currently amended)-13, 14 (currently amended)-20 are allowable.

4. A telephone interview is respectfully requested prior to any final action on the merits to consider any changes to language to better define applicant's invention over the prior art or to clarify any remaining issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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